



THE ST. MARK'S MESSAGE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Britain

THE LION'S PAUSE
MARK GIULIETTI, VESTRY MEMBER

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DECEMBER 2023
ISSUE

Jack Wood is the co-founder of "Growing Together Community Gardens" a group of eight sustainable gardens in the Fargo North Dakota area. The gardens address food insecurity by cultivating volunteers, mentors and leaders who respect one another and the earth. For Wood, the idea of being "Rooted in Abundance" means being thankful for the gifts has God has given us and being able to share with others. These thoughts and actions are part of our everyday life that grow from God as a source of life.

From this trust that our lives are deeply rooted in God we can give ourselves fully and the volunteers who work the community gardens, through planting, nurturing and harvesting discover how they are rooted in this source of life. In turn, this makes them generous and giving people throughout their lives.

At this time of year, folks are focused on volunteering and donating, but the need exists through the year, not just the period from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Talk about a time in your life when working as a volunteer exposed you to new ideas and skills and how did meeting new people, perhaps less fortunate than yourself, within the context of ministry, add to your own gifts?

I think gratitude and generosity work together to make us better human beings. At this very special time of the year let us reflect on all we have and how we can make this world, starting with our community, a better place for all of us

Special points of interest:

- *The Lion's Pause - Mark Giulietti, Vestry Member*
- *Christmas Eve Service and Christmas & New Years Greeting*
- *In-Person and Hybrid Services - Broadcast Instructions*
- *Contemporary Collects and prayers*
- *Sunday Services at St. James, Farmington*
- *Clerk's Corner - Allison Penick*
- *Worship Schedule for December*
- *Save The Date*
- *Wreaths and Symbols by Evelyn Briere 2007*
- *December Calendar*
- *Food Pantry Statistics*

Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 p.m. Erwin Chapel

Please join us on Christmas Eve at 8:00 p.m. to celebrate our remembrance of this special season at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New Britain.

Our Celebrant is The Rev. Joseph Pace and we are thrilled to have an Organist, Daniel Kendzior joining us. He has played at St. Mark's in the past, performing between the terms of Marilyn Haskel and Mary-Rose DiGiovanna.

We look forward to seeing you at the Erwin Chapel of South Congregational Church at 90 Main Street. Have a joyous Holiday Season!

**The Vestry and Staff of
St. Mark's Episcopal Church wish you a
Blessed Christmas
and
a Happy New Year!**



ZOOM & IN-PERSON SERVICE INFORMATION

Broadcast Instructions

Our service will always be available on Zoom with Meeting ID 500-865-037. You can enter via the parish Web link at <http://www.stmarksnewbritain.org>. Please either print or have the bulletin open on a separate browser tab to participate fully in the service.

Contemporary Collects and Prayers

December 3 - 1 Advent - Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

December 6 - Feast of St. Nicholas of Myra - Almighty God, who in your love gave to your servant Nicholas of Myra a perpetual name for deeds of kindness on land and sea: Grant, we pray, that your Church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

December 10 - 2 Advent - Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

December 17 - 3 Advent - Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

December 24 - 4 Advent - Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

December 25 - Christmas Day - O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

December 31 - 1 Christmas - Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Sunday Services at St. James, Farmington

There are two services. Rite 1 is celebrated at 8:00 am, Rite 2 (normally with choir) is celebrated at 10:15 am. This is livestreamed via FACEBOOK LIVE. Livestream connection is by clicking the "F" icon at the top of the St. James Webpage. Only the 10:15 am service is livestreamed.

A parking tip: When approaching the church turn right just in front of the entrance. Parking to the left (behind the church) is difficult and limited. Across the street from the front door of the church there is ample parking available on Sunday mornings.

Clerk's Corner - By Allison Penick
December 2023

Happy Thanksgiving, a few days past, and Happy almost Advent! This time of year always catches me off-guard. While it is filled with joys and gratefulness, it seems too overloaded to experience fully. St. Mark's is launching full speed ahead too. Our focus in 2024 will be our transition to a completed merger with St. James, Farmington.

Our vestries have met a couple of times and formed 4 main committees (Canonical, Finance, Property and Mission). These committees will define the tangible and intangible customs of both parishes in order to make one cohesive parish. Good news! These committees are open to **everyone**. Please ask a vestry member for more information so you can make the parish yours. No idea is too small. Another teaser: What will our name be? Give it some thought. Both parishes will be doing a survey soon.

St. Mark's will continue to be its own entity until the final blessing at next October's CT Diocesan Convention. Our home base will be Erwin Chapel and South Church. We are still dependent on the availability of supply priests for worship services. Therefore, here is a brief outline of service plans for December 2023 to October 2024:

December Sundays: Rev. Joan Phelps and Rev. Joe Pace, Erwin Chapel

Christmas Eve: 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Rev. Joe Pace (time may change), Erwin Chapel

Holy Week and Easter 2024: St. James, Farmington

Pentecost: Special Final Erwin Chapel service with Rev. Pat Hames

We will give updates as the weeks go by and provide instructions for attending St. James' services virtually.

Father George Roberts at St. James Church is available for any pastoral needs.

St. Mark's continues to administer the Smith Fund to benefit the needy in its parish. The fund recently contributed \$5K to Warm the Children clothing drive. The vestry approved a grant of \$50K to the new Hope Connection Center managed by the Friendship Service Center (FSC). The vestry listened to an impressive presentation by 2 FSC directors showing that they have been able to find housing for 100 households since the opening in February 2023, often without using homeless shelters.

Last but not least, the vestry accepted with regret the resignation of Curtis Searle. We are thankful for his faithful service and hope we continue to see him in an unofficial capacity. At the same time, we welcome Dave Tompkins to serve the rest of Curtis' term until 2024.

"Open to God's Love, Serving Our Neighbor"

May the Holy Spirit continue to support and guide us in God's way, in God's time.

Peace,
Allison

Worship Schedule for St. Mark's – December 2023

Below is a listing of our Sunday worship schedule from November 5 to December 31.
Please note that this list may be subject to change at any time.
Any changes will be noted in our weekly bulletin.

December 3	10:15 a.m.	Services at St. James, 3 Mountain Rd., Farmington
December 10	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
December 17	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
December 24	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joseph Pace Celebrant (4 Advent)
December 24	*8:00 p.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joseph Pace Celebrant (Christmas Eve)
December 31	10:00 a.m.	Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joseph Pace Celebrant

*Time of service may change. Watch bulletin and our website for any changes

www.stmarksnewbritain.org

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 3	1 Advent	10:15 a.m.	Service at St. James, 3 Mountain Rd., Farmington
Tuesday, December 5		5:45 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 6		7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
Sunday, December 10	2 Advent	10:00 a.m.	Service in the Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
Tuesday, December 12		6:45 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
Sunday, December 17	3 Advent	10:00 a.m.	Service in the Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joan Phelps Celebrant
Sunday, December 17		4:00 p.m.	South Church presents - Candlelight Festival of Lessons & Carols Main Sanctuary - Free-will offering will be accepted.
Sunday, December 24	4 Advent	10:00 a.m.	Service in the Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joe Pace Celebrant
Sunday, December 24		*8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service - Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joe Pace Celebrant
Monday, December 25	Christmas Day		Parish Office Closed
Tuesday, December 26			Parish Office Closed
Sunday, December 31		10:00 a.m.	Service in the Erwin Chapel, Rev. Joe Pace Celebrant
Monday, January 1, 2024	New Year's Day		Parish Office Closed

**Time of service may change. Watch bulletin for updates.*

Wreaths and Symbols by Evelyn Briere 2007

One of the things I love about our church and faith is the rhythm and beauty of its teachings.

As we begin our church year, Advent, this coming Sunday, there are many symbols that identify and tell us of the season.

The Advent Wreath has many symbols. Really look at it – what do you see?

It is green – life and growth

it has four candles – we light one for each Sunday in Advent. The Light of the World is coming to overcome the darkness. Candles stand for Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.

It has the color purple – candles and/or ribbon – Penitence Prayer, Preparation.

(The color purple also designates Royalty and Sovereignty.)

One candle is rose colored – this is to remind us of the joy that is coming.

It is round, a circle with no beginning and no end. This is connected with the symbol of Advent in the Greek letter A – for Alpha and O – for Omega intertwined, “I am the beginning and the end, saith the Lord.”

It tell us God is eternal in his love and care for us. Beautiful!

On Christmas Eve the ribbons are changed to red, the color of joy and celebration. Our Lord and Savior has come, a babe in the manger – Amazing!

A simple prayer to use during Advent is:

*Come into my heart Lord Jesus.
There is room in my heart for you!
Amen.*



DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	4 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	5	6 5:45 p.m. Exec. Committee Mtg 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Mtg	7 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	8	9
10 St. James, Farmington 10:15 a.m. <i>2 Advent</i>	11 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	12 6:45 P.M. Vestry Meeting	13	14 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	15	16
17 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel <i>3 Advent</i>	18 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry	19	20	21 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	22	23
24** In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel <i>4 Advent</i>	25  Merry Christmas!	26 Office Closed	27	28 9:00 - 2:00 Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. Thursday Night	29	30
31 In-Person/Hybrid Service 10:00 a.m. Erwin Chapel		**Christmas Eve Service 8:00 p.m. in the Erwin Chapel				

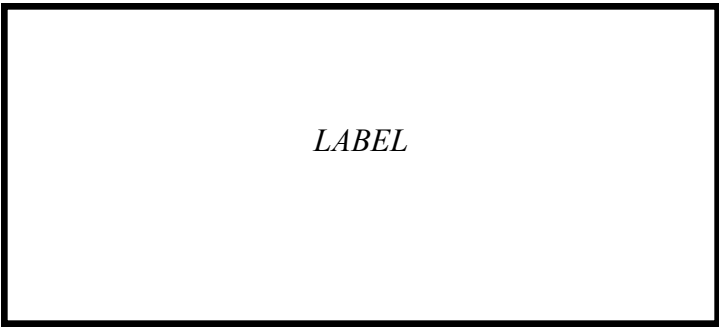
**St. Mark's Episcopal
Church, New Britain**

**PO Box 1538
90 Main Street
New Britain, CT 06051**

**Phone: 860-225-7634
Email: parishoffice@stmarksnewbritain.org
Website: www.stmarksnewbritain.org**

**PRAYER CHAIN: to activate the chain call
Barbara Campbell 860-673-7607,
Campbellba24@gmail.com**

**If you or someone you know is hospitalized,
please inform the parish office.**



***Open to God's Love -
Serving Our Neighbor***

**Due date for all articles for the January 2024
Issue of the St. Mark's Message is December 18th.**

Regular Parish Office Hours.

Monday through Friday
from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Food Pantry

Monday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2:00
Thursday: 9 - 12 & 12:30 - 2:00
(Closed for lunch from 12 - 12:30)



Weekly Parish Services:

**Sundays: In-Person and Zoom - 10:00 a.m. -
Erwin Chapel at 90 Main St. unless otherwise stated.
Please check the St. Mark's Calendar for our monthly schedule.**

St. Mark's Food Pantry

Monthly Statistics: October 2023

- ! Unduplicated households - 236
- ! Total Unduplicated people - 716
- ! Total food donated to St. Mark's - 779 lbs.
- ! Total food from Food Share - 1,390 lbs.
- ! Year to date food donations - 7,764 lbs.
- ! Year to date from Food Share - 31,034.50 lbs.

Connecticut residents may
receive food from our Food
Pantry once every 30 days.
Please bring your own bag,
if possible, to receive food.